

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02802 300115Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-14 AF-10 EUR-12 PM-05 HA-05  
MCT-01 IO-14 INR-10 SS-15 SP-02 /101 W  
-----010203 300117Z /70

O 310057Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5641  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02802

FOR: IBS IPS IOR, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: CUBANS IN AFRICA MEDIA REACTION

1. THE "NEW ZEALAND HERALD" IN ITS SECOND EDITORIAL ON MAY 27 COMMENTED UNDER THE HEADING "CUBANS PLAY SOVIET GAME":
2. "RECENT ESTIMATES PUT THE NUMBER OF CUBAN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS SERVING IN AFRICA AT ABOUT 50,000. SPREAD THROUGHOUT AT LEAST 14 COUNTRIES, THEY ARE, IN A FAMILIAR ENOUGH COMMUNIST MANNER, FANNING REVOLUTIONARY FLAMES TO AN EFFECT QUITE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THEIR NUMERICAL STRENGTH. NOW, THE UNITED STATES, AT LEAST, IS CONVINCED OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE.
3. "DR. CASTRO HAS REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMED THAT CUBA IS NOT MERELY A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, BUT AN AFRO-AMERICAN COUNTRY TOO, AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT HAS A DUTY TO HELP AFRICANS. IN ACCEPTING THIS SELF-IMPOSED RESPONSIBILITY, AND IN HONOURING HIS OWN DEFINITION OF "HELP" HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE BOOSTING ITS SUBSIDIES OF THE CUBAN

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ECONOMY AS A REWARD. IN EFFECT, MOSCOW PAYS HAVANA FOR DOING RUSSIAN WORK IN AFRICA.

4. "CUBA'S CONTINGENT IN AFRICA, AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL CUBAN POPULATION, IS MUCH LARGER THAN THE FORCE OF UNITED STATES TROOPS IN VIETNAM AT THE HEIGHT OF THE WAR THERE. IT COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT COMPARISON. IN TERMS OF

WASTED AID, UNSTABLE LANDS AND INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS, AFRICA  
IS ALREADY DISPLAYING SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A  
SOVIET AND CUBAN VIETNAM." ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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